

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

Claims 1-6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (new) A device for supporting a filter for fluids, said device comprising:
a holder for the filter, said holder having a first holder end, an opposite second holder end, a first section including said first holder end and a second section including said second holder end, said first section comprising a plurality of first ribs running in a direction from said first holder end towards said second holder end and a plurality of second ribs running transverse to said first ribs, and said second section comprising a plurality of additional ribs running in a direction from said first holder end towards said second holder end, said second section being free of a plurality of ribs running transverse to said additional ribs.

Claim 8. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein said first section and said second section are each flexible.

Claim 9. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein each of said first ribs, said second ribs and said additional ribs comprises a flexible material.

Claim 10. (new) The device of claim 9, wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of plastic and rubber.

Claim 11. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein said first ribs converge in a direction from said second holder end towards said first holder end.

Claim 12. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein said additional ribs converge in a direction from said first holder end towards said second holder end.

Claim 13. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein said first section narrows in a direction from said second holder end towards said first holder end and said second section narrows in a direction from said first holder end towards said second holder end.

Claim 14. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein said first section further comprises a support for a pipe inserted in said first section, said support being located in the region of said first end and being fast with said first ribs.

Claim 15. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein each of said additional ribs has a rib end in the region of said second holder end; and further comprising an expandable and contractible ring-like element mounted on said rib ends.

Claim 16. (new) The device of claim 7, wherein said first section is of one piece with said second section.